

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

February 6, 2015

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1 Housing Prices

Have you heard about the oil prices dropping in Canada? Can you think of how lower oil prices might affect the price of houses? This first story is about what is happening with the dropping price oil and the price of houses in Calgary right now.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words in the story with the synonyms. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words in the story	Synonyms (Related words)
	dropped	a) balanced the same
	listing	b) stay continue
	economist	c) aware of to know
	trend	d) fell went down
	in tune with	e) direction flow
	stable	f) advertisement places for sale
	remain	g) business analyst money expert

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

buyer's market – a good time for people to buy things because the prices are low

energy sector- the part of an economy that makes money and jobs from energy, such as oil

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Answer the questions below as you listen to the audio. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What did the Calgary Real Estate Board say about the prices of houses?
2. How much are new listings up by?
3. What does Ann-Marie Lurie say will happen to the market if the trend continues?
4. Why do many Calgarians worry about the falling price of oil?
5. What are Calgarians in tune with?
6. What does it mean that single homes have remained stable in January and December?

Discussion Question: Do you know why the oil prices are dropping? What is affected by the price of oil? What other industries does Canada have that can bring money to its economy?

News story #2 What Is In your Baby's Food?

Do you look at food labels when you are grocery shopping? Are you concerned about the amount of sugar and salt that is added to our food? This second story is about the sugar and salt levels that are in snacks that are meant for babies and young children.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
obesity	When someone is very fat and unhealthy
toddler	A young child who is just learning how to walk
Sodium	Salt
alarming	Making you feel worried or afraid
cereal bars	Snacks made of grains and fruits in the shape of a rectangle
childhood	The time when someone is a child, or a kid
store-bought brand	The type of product you buy in a store, not home made
organic	Naturally grown products without chemicals

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Centres for Disease Control and Prevention – organizations that are responsible for keeping our food and environment as healthy as possible

1. You should be careful not to have too much _____ in your diet because it is bad for you.
2. _____ love to eat _____ for a snack.
3. Her _____ was a happy time filled with great memories.
4. _____ is becoming a big problem in Canada because people are eating more sugary, salty and fatty foods and exercising less.
5. Eating _____ food is a healthy option that a lot of people are choosing these days.
6. When you buy _____ spaghetti sauce, you might be eating more salt and more sugar than if you were to make your own sauce.
7. The large amount of people who are gaining weight in Canada is _____ .

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are true (T) or false (F). *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ The obesity expert says that the amount of extra sugar and sodium isn't alarming.
2. ____ Over 1000 types of food have been looked at for the extra sugar and sodium.
3. ____ All cereal bars that were looked at had added sugar in them.
4. ____ Almost ¾ of toddler dinners and cereal bars are high in sodium.
5. ____ The high sodium and added sugars are leading to childhood obesity according to Dr. Lau.
6. ____ Organic foods do not have higher levels of sodium and sugar.

Discussion: What can you do to be healthier? How can we make sure our children are eating right?

News story #3 2014 World Mayor Prize

Have you ever won an award for doing something really well? This next story is about the award and recognition that Calgary's Mayor is getting for being a great mayor.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words with the correct definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	recognition	a) a prize or certificate someone can win because they have done something really well
	praise	b) to be told you have done something right
	leadership	c) to give something to someone
	management	d) the act of realizing that something is true or important
	humbled	e) an object like a silver cup, or golden plate that someone gets for doing something well, or for winning something
	award	f) a good leader or guide of other people
	trophy	g) not thinking that you are more important than others
	present	h) the way someone controls and organizes different situations that happen

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Past, Present or Future?

Decide when each of these actions happened. Note: the statements have all been changed to simple present in this activity and you will have to listen for clues that will tell you when these events happened. *Answers are in the appendix.*

	Past	Present	Future
1. Calgary's mayor gets some international recognition.			
2. Naheed Nenshi is named the winner of the 2014 World Mayor Prize.			
3. The award is given out every two years by the London-based City Mayors Foundation.			
4. The award praises Nenshi's leadership and management skills as well as his ability to communicate.			
5. Nenshi says he's humbled, adding the win is good for Calgary too.			
6. The City Mayors Foundation presents Nenshi with a trophy.			

Discussion Question: Why is it important to give awards to recognize peoples' good actions? How does praising someone for doing something well affect the person's confidence levels and self-image?

Language Focus: Articles – a, an, the, zero article

One of the most difficult things students struggle with is when to use articles (a, an, the).

Articles go before nouns and they tell us some specific information about the noun.

Indefinite article: Used to introduce a noun for the first time into a story or dialogue E.g. I saw a boy. (We are not sure which boy because this is the first mention of the boy.) Or, if you are talking about something non-specific. E.g. Pass me an orange. (It doesn't matter which orange you give me; I just want an orange.) – We use “an” before a noun that starts with a vowel, or vowel sound.	A; An
Definite article: Used for nouns that have already been introduced in a story or dialogue E.g. I saw the boy. (We know which boy it is. It is a specific boy that we have heard of before.) Use for unique, one of a kind, nouns – when there is only one of this particular person, place or thing. E.g. He is the Prime Minister (PM) of Canada; The Pacific Ocean	The
Zero article: No article is used. This applies to such things as lakes (e.g. I am going to ___ Lake Huron); most countries (I live in ___ Canada); cities (___ Montreal is lovely.); well-known places (I'm going to ___ Disney Land); names of people (___ Julie and ___ Sara are friends.) When making general statements (I like cookies. People use ___ sugar in their coffee)	—

Look at the sentences taken from this week's stories and decide whether the blank spaces should be filled with “the”, “a”, “an” or “___”, and say why you chose that answer. Go back and listen to the stories again, if you need some help deciding. – *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ Calgary Real Estate Board says home sales last month in _____ Calgary dropped to low levels that have not been seen for five years.
2. CREB's chief economist, _____ Ann-Marie Lurie, says if that trend continues, _____ Calgary will become _____ buyer's market..
3. She says many Calgarians are worried about _____ falling price of oil. She says Calgarians are very in tune with what's happening in _____ energy sector.
4. _____ Calgary obesity expert says studies that show many toddler snacks and foods contain added sugar and sodium are alarming.
5. Researchers at _____ US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention analyzed more than a thousand food items.
6. _____ Doctor David Lau at _____ University of Calgary medical school says that can lead to problems like childhood obesity.
7. _____ Calgary's mayor is getting some international recognition. _____ Naheed Nenshi has been named _____ winner of _____ 2014 World Mayor Prize. _____ award is given out every two years by _____ London-based City Mayors Foundation.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	FEBRUARY 6 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli . You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of February 6 th .	0:00
Story 1	The Calgary Real Estate Board says home sales last month in Calgary dropped to low levels that have not been seen for five years. At the same time, new listings are up 39 per cent. CREB's chief economist, Ann-Marie Lurie, says if that trend continues, Calgary will become a buyer's market. She says many Calgarians are worried about the falling price of oil. She says Calgarians are very in tune with what's happening in the energy sector. The benchmark price of a single detached home in Calgary remained stable in January when compared with December figures at just over 459 thousand dollars.	
Story 2	A Calgary obesity expert says studies that show many toddler snacks and foods contain added sugar and sodium are alarming. Researchers at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention analyzed more than a thousand food items. 32 percent of toddler dinners and almost all cereal bars had one or more added sugars. And 72 percent were high in sodium. Doctor David Lau at the University of Calgary medical school says that can lead to problems like childhood obesity. The study found the higher levels of sodium and sugar were in store-bought brands, even those that were labelled organic.	
Story 3	Calgary's mayor is getting some international recognition. Naheed Nenshi has been named the winner of the 2014 World Mayor Prize. The award is given out every two years by the London-based City Mayors Foundation. It praised Nenshi's leadership and management skills as well as his ability to communicate. Nenshi says he's humbled, adding the win is good for Calgary too. The City Mayors Foundation will present Nenshi with a trophy later this year.	

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words in the story	Synonyms (Related words)
D	dropped	a) balanced the same
F	listing	b) stay continue
G	economist	c) aware of to know
E	trend	d) fell went down
C	in tune with	e) direction flow
A	stable	f) advertisement places for sale
B	remain	g) business analyst money expert

Listening:

1. What did the Calgary Real Estate Board say about the prices of houses? **It said that home sales last month in Calgary dropped to low levels that have not been seen for five years.**
2. How much are new listings up by? **39%**
3. What does Ann-Marie Lurie say will happen to the market if the trend continues?
That it will become a buyer's market
4. Why do many Calgarians worry about the falling price of oil? **Because as the oil prices fall, so does the price of houses**
5. What are Calgarian's in tune with? **What is happening in the energy sector (the rising and falling of oil prices)**
6. What does it mean that single homes have remained stable in January and December? **The price of these kinds of homes has stayed the same (459 thousand dollars)**

News story 2

Vocabulary:

1. You should be careful not to have too much **sodium** in your diet because it is bad for you.
2. **Toddlers** love to eat **cereal bars** for a snack.
3. Her **childhood** was a happy time filled with great memories.
4. **Obesity** is becoming a big problem in Canada because people are eating more sugary, salty and fatty foods and exercising less.
5. Eating **organic** food is a healthy option that a lot of people are choosing these days.
6. When you buy **store-bought brand** spaghetti sauce, you might be eating more salt and more sugar than if you were to make your own sauce.
7. The large amount of people who are gaining weight in Canada is **alarming**.

Listening:

1. F The obesity expert says that the amount of extra sugar and sodium **isn't** alarming.
2. T Over 1000 types of food have been looked at for the extra sugar and sodium.
3. F **All** cereal bars that were looked at found added sugar in them.
4. T Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of toddler dinners and cereal bars are high in sodium. **(72%)**
5. T The high sodium and added sugars are leading to childhood obesity according to Dr. Lau.
6. F Organic foods do not have higher levels of sodium and sugar.

News story 3

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
D	recognition	a) a prize or certificate someone can win because they have done something really well
B	praise	b) to be told you have done something right
F	leadership	c) to give something to someone
H	management	d) the act of realizing that something is true or important
G	humbled	e) an object like a silver cup, or golden plate that someone gets for doing something well, or for winning something
A	award	f) a good leader or guide of other people
E	trophy	g) not thinking that you are more important than others
C	present	h) the way someone controls and organizes different situations that happen

Listening:

	Past	Present	Future
1. Calgary's mayor gets some international recognition.		x	
2. Naheed Nenshi is named the winner of the 2014 World Mayor Prize.	x		
3. The award is given out every two years by the London-based City Mayors Foundation.		x	
4. The award praises Nenshi's leadership and management skills as well as his ability to communicate.	x		
5. Nenshi says he's humbled adding the win is good for Calgary too.		x	
6. The City Mayors Foundation presents Nenshi with a trophy.			x

Language focus:

1. The Calgary Real Estate Board says home sales last month in ____ Calgary dropped to low levels that have not been seen for five years. – “The” is used because there is only one Calgary Real Estate Board. Calgary gets a zero article because it is a city name.
2. CREB's chief economist, ____ Ann-Marie Lurie, says if that trend continues, ____ Calgary will become a buyer's market. - Ann-Marie and Calgary get a zero article because they are names of a person and city. “A” is used because there are many types of markets, and a buyer's market is just one of many types.
3. She says many Calgarians are worried about the falling price of oil. She says Calgarians are very in tune with what's happening in the energy sector.
- “The” falling price of oil is well known and there is only one. There is only one energy sector, so “the” is used”
4. A Calgary obesity expert says studies that show many toddler snacks and foods contain added sugar and sodium are alarming. – “A” is used because there are many obesity experts in Calgary and this is also the first introduction to the obesity expert.
5. Researchers at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention analyzed more than a thousand food items. – “The” is used because there is only one US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

6. ____ Doctor David Lau at the University of Calgary medical school says that can lead to problems like childhood obesity. – There is no article before Doctor David Lau because he is a person. “The” is used because there is only one University of Calgary.
7. ____ Calgary's mayor is getting some international recognition. ____ Naheed Nenshi has been named the winner of the 2014 World Mayor Prize. The award is given out every two years by the London-based City Mayors Foundation. – Calgary only has one mayor, so it is not necessary to use an article. Naheed Nenshi is a person, so no article is needed. There was only one winner, one prize, one award and one London-based City Mayors Foundation, so “the” is used.